ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a method for detecting dropped packets in a network that includes a packet switched network. The method includes establishing a telephonic connection between a first network location and a second network location. A set of N waveforms are transmitted from the first network location. Each transmitted waveform includes a waveform characteristic operative to assign a predetermined value relative to other waveforms in the at least one set, such that a predetermined sequence of values are assigned to packets carrying the N transmitted waveforms. A telephonic signal is received at the second network location via the communications channel. The telephonic signal is processed to obtain a received sequence of values. The received sequence of values is compared to the predetermined sequence of transmitted values to detect dropped packets without having access to packet switched network control data.